

WEEKLY REPORT

May 21, 2008

Member Op/Eds

Congressman Paul Ryan wrote an op/ed than ran in the Wall Street Journal about the “Roadmap for America’s future,” his comprehensive plan to deal with America’s coming entitlement crisis. *“According to the Congressional Budget Office, Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and the rest of government will consume nearly 40% of the economy by the time my three young children reach my age (38). This will require more than doubling the average tax burden of the past 40 years just to keep the government afloat. Continuing down this path will eventually strangle our economy. To meet this challenge and secure our fiscal future, I’m introducing a comprehensive legislative plan called “A Roadmap for America’s Future”... The roadmap I’m offering is a real plan, with real proposals, real numbers to back them, and real legislation to implement it. Based on the analysis of government actuaries, it is projected to make Social Security and Medicare permanently solvent, lift the growing debt burden on future generations, and hold Federal taxes to 18.5% of GDP. Many will disagree with this approach. But it is my sincere hope that it will spur Congress to move beyond simply rehashing the problem – to the politically difficult, but critical task of debating, and implementing actual solutions,”* wrote Ryan.

Communicator of the Week
Brit Hume on House Republicans

“Does anyone really believe that the GOP in the House stands for less spending? Of Course not. They can’t even get together on earmark reform. That is a simple issue; it’s easy to understand... But if they can’t even forswear earmarks and make an issue out of that, my sense is that it is hopeless for them, and they are going to get slaughtered in this mid-term.”

Congressman Wally Herger wrote an op/ed that ran in several papers in his district – including the Redding Record Searchlight – on the importance of free trade. *“Our nation’s economy is going through a period of uncertainty. The credit crunch and housing slump have dampened economic growth. Gas prices are reaching an astonishing \$4 per gallon, and food prices are soaring. Americans are forced to cope with these rising prices every day. On the brighter side, surging U.S. exports continue to bolster our economy. Millions of U.S. jobs are dependent on trade. Without trade, many of these jobs would be lost. Open markets create new opportunities for U.S. producers to sell their products overseas. Since Americans can’t eat all of the prunes, rice, nuts, beef and other commodities grown in Northern California, trade is vital to our area’s economic prosperity. I believe the benefits of trade are the best kept secret of our economy. While removing unfair trade barriers won’t cure all of our economic struggles, it will foster job creation and economic growth here at home. Congress should reject economic isolationism and pass the Colombia FTA without further delay,”* wrote Herger.

Congressman Zach Wamp wrote an op/ed for the Chattanooga entitled, “When the Going Gets Tough.” *“My high school basketball coach used to say, “When the going gets tough, the tough get going.” That battle cry should be our mantra as the leaders of the United States of America at this critical moment in history. We all know the fundamentals are not good, the price of a gallon of gasoline is too high and unsustainable, the housing market is in a slump, shooting wars in Afghanistan and Iraq continue to extract blood, sweat and tears, health care is not accessible to all and too expensive for many. Overall, times are really tough for a lot of people. However, the United States and its people have endured much worse on many occasions throughout our storied history. What we need more than any single program or policy is the collective will to face these challenges with the same fortitude, resolve and unity with which we have rallied from adversity before....” “The “Greatest Generation” is still watching our every move. They were impressed with the way we came together after September 11. We must unite and decisively answer this call together. The political parties cannot or will not do this, but with or without them, those of us in leadership positions need to move forward and make the tough decisions to meet these challenges. Too much is at stake and time is of the essence,”* wrote Wamp.

Morning Hour and “One Minute” Participation

From May 13 through May 20, 11 RSC Members delivered one-minute speeches. Rep. Jeff Flake, Rep. Randy Neugebauer and Rep. Marilyn Musgrave spoke about the Farm Bill. Rep. Joe Pitts spoke about domestic energy. Rep. Joe Wilson spoke twice, about FISA and the Iraq Supplemental bill. Rep. John Culberson also spoke about the Iraq Supplemental bill. Reps. Steve Chabot and Ted Poe spoke about National Police Week. Rep. Tom Price spoke about the importance of honoring veterans, and Rep. Michele Bachmann spoke recognized Israel’s 60th Anniversary. On May 20th, Reps. Poe (immigration), Kuhl (Memorial Day), Blackburn (gas prices), and Lamborn (Israel) all spoke during Morning Hour.

THE RSC’S ACTION PLAN FOR HOUSE REPUBLICANS: BOLD, SIMPLE, AND DIFFERENT THAN THE DEMOCRATS

☆ **THE END OF PORK-BARREL SPENDING**

House Republicans are committed to ending pork-barrel spending. We will not wait on the Democrat Majority to end “Bridges to Nowhere” and “Monuments to Me”—we declare an immediate earmark moratorium and pledge to reform the system. We also pledge to uphold any future veto of a spending bill that is pork laden and does not lead to a balanced budget.

☆ **LIMITING WASHINGTON TAXES AND SPENDING TO WHAT FAMILIES CAN AFFORD**

House Republicans are committed to eliminating the Alternative Minimum Tax and preventing the scheduled tax increases in 2010 from taking more from the paychecks of hard-working, middle class families. We are also committed to amending the U.S. Constitution to limit the growth of federal spending to the level at which middle class Americans can afford. Except in time of war or national emergency, our spending limit amendment would prohibit federal spending from growing faster than the economy.

☆ **A FAIR, SIMPLE TAX CODE THAT AMERICANS UNDERSTAND & HAVE A RIGHT TO EXPECT**

House Republicans are committed to ending a tax code that is too long, too complex and too unfair. Specifically, our legislation would provide comprehensive, individual income tax reform by providing individuals an alternative, two-tier flat tax system that can be filed on one page. Taxpayers can choose the new, simplified system or stay with the current tax code—whichever option suits them.

☆ **A FAMILY-FOCUSED, PATIENT-CENTERED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**

House Republicans will reform and improve our current health care system, by 1) providing a refundable health care tax credit to every American to purchase affordable health care coverage, and 2) broadening the array of choices for health insurance plans, by allowing individuals to purchase plans available in other states. These measures will allow Americans who like their current health plan to keep it, while encouraging all individuals to own and control a personal and portable health insurance policy.

☆ **AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE THROUGH INCREASED EXPLORATION**

House Republicans are committed to increasing American energy supplies to lower prices and reduce dependence on Middle Eastern Oil by incentivizing conservation and allowing energy exploration in Alaska and the Outer Continental Shelf, as well as the development of cleaner coal technologies and alternative fuels.

☆ **A LEGAL FRAMEWORK THAT ALLOWS US TO PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACKS**

House Republicans are committed to preventing terrorists from attacking America. House Republicans will empower our intelligence agencies to intercept terrorist communications with sources outside of the United States without the lengthy process of getting a warrant that could jeopardize the ability to thwart an attack.

☆ **A MORAL APPROACH FOR PARENTS TO PROTECT AND EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN**

House Republicans are committed to supporting parental rights, by 1) ensuring that a child cannot be transported across a state border for an abortion without the consent of a parent or legal guardian, and 2) empowering parents to maintain control over their family’s personal education decisions.

☆ **A WELFARE SAFETY NET THAT FOSTERS MARRIAGE AND WORK**

House Republicans are committed to extending many of the current welfare work requirements to other programs—namely food stamps and housing—so that those who are not old, young, or disabled are either working in the private sector or serving in their community. Such reforms will ensure a more stable environment for low-income children by encouraging their parents to marry and raise them in two-parent homes.

For more information, please contact Brad Dayspring at x68582

